

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 05707 01 OF 02 010722Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
SSC-01 EB-08 /076 W
-----026293 010752Z /17

O R 010610Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8326
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 5707

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: POLITICAL TRENDS ANALYSIS: DEMIREL COALITION'S SURVIVAL
PROSPECTS

1. SUMMARY: MOST OBSERVERS OF TURKISH POLITICS BELIEVE THE
NEW DEMIREL COALITION WILL NOT LAST LONG, NOTING THAT THE PROBLEMS
IT FACES WILL PROBABLY FORCE DIFFICULT AND DIVISIVE DECISIONS, THE
OPPOSITION IS STRONGER AND IMPLACABLE, AND SANCAR'S SUCCESSOR
AS TURKISH GENERAL STAFF CHIEF MAY POSSIBLY BE RELATIVELY MORE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 05707 01 OF 02 010722Z

INCLINED TO INTERVENE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. WHILE
THESE ARE STRONG FACTORS, WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT
THAT, AS IN THE PREVIOUS DEMIREL GOVERNMENT, THE FORCES THAT
BROUGHT THE THREE COALITION PARTNERS TOGETHER WILL TEND TO KEEP
THEM TOGETHER. MUCH DEPENDS ON DEMIREL'S WILL TO CONTINUE.
CURRENTLY AVAILABLE EVIDENCE AND FORESEEABLE DEVELOPMENTS
OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS GIVE NO BASIS FOR PREDICTING AN EARLY

WALKOUT BY ANY PART OF THE COALITION. END SUMMARY

2. THE NEW THREE-PARTY COALITION GOVERNMENT HEADED BY JUSTICE PARTY (JP) CHAIRMAN DEMIREL WILL FACE ITS INITIAL VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AUGUST 1. AT THIS POINT, DESPITE SOME DISSATISFACTION WITHIN THE JP, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT IT WILL WIN THAT VOTE. THIS TELEGRAM DISCUSSES THE PROSPECTS FOR SURVIVAL OF THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT IF IT WINS A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

3. MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE NEW DEMIREL GOVERNMENT WILL NOT LAST AS LONG AS THE PREVIOUS ONE. THEY CITE TWO BASIC REASONS FOR THIS BELIEF.

A. THE PROBLEMS FACING THE GOT ARE MORE SERIOUS NOW. POLITICALLY DIFFICULT AND POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE DECISIONS WILL BE FORCED UPON THE NEW GOVERNMENT EARLY ON. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS ARE CONSIDERED THE MOST PRESSING, ALTHOUGH THERE IS A GROWING FEELING THAT ACTION TO RESOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND AMELIORATE ITS DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS UPON TURKISH-GREEK AND TURKISH-US RELATIONS CANNOT BE PUT OFF MUCH LONGER. SIMILARLY, THE DOMESTIC SECURITY SITUATION CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO FESTER INDEFINITELY.

B. THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) IS IN A STRONGER POSITION THAN BEFORE AND IS DETERMINED TO OPPOSE THE GOVERNMENT IN EVERY POSSIBLY WAY. THE RPP IS ONLY 12 SEATS SHORT OF AN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANKARA 05707 01 OF 02 010722Z

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. IN THE SENATE IT HAS, WITH THE HELP OF THE LIFE SENATORS AND SOME PRESIDENTIAL CONTINGENT SENATORS, A SOLID MAJORITY. AS THE RPP DEMONSTRATED IN ITS SUCCESSFUL OPPOSITION OF STATE SECURITY COURT LEGISLATION IN 1976, OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS CAN EFFECTIVELY STALL THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. A STRONGER RPP CAN PROBABLY DO IT WITH EASE. THE RPP WILL ALSO STEP-UP ITS EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT. RPP YOUTH ELEMENTS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR DETERMINATION TO OPPOSE THE RE-ESTABLISHED CONSERVATIVE COALITION ON ALL FRONTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 05707 02 OF 02 010747Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSC-01 EB-08
IO-13 /076 W

-----026437 010752Z /21

O R 010610Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8327
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 5707

MOST OF TURKISH ORGANIZED LABOR (WHICH IS PRO-RPP) HAS
RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO TURK-IS LABOR CONFEDERATION PRESIDENT
TUNC'S THREAT TO CALL A GENERAL STRIKE TO OPPOSE THE NEW GOVERN-
MENT (ANKARA 5254 DTG 131345Z JULY).

4. ANOTHER FACTOR WHICH IS GENERALLY NOT MENTIONED PUBLICLY,
BUT WHICH COULD AFFECT THE LIFE OF THE GOVERNMENT, IS THE
ANTICIPATED RETIREMENT OF TURKISH GENERAL STAFF CHIEF SEMIH
SANCAR IN MARCH 1978. SANCAR AND DEMIREL GET ALONG WELL.
ALSO, SANCAR SEEMS TO BE MORE TOLERANT THAN MOST SENIOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 05707 02 OF 02 010747Z

MILITARY OFFICERS OF THE EXTREMIST TENDENCIES OF THE TWO JUNIOR
MEMBERS OF THE COALITION. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT, SANCAR
DOES NOT BELIEVE THE MILITARY SHOULD INTERVENE IN THE POLITICAL
PROCESS. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHO WILL REPLACE SANCAR, BUT IF THAT
PERSON--OR THE NEWLY-NAMES SERVICE CHIEFS -- SHOULD BE MORE ACTIVIST,
THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE LIFE OF THE SECOND DEMIREL COALITION GOVERN-
MENT MOGHT BE SHORTENED BY MILITARY INTERVENTION WOULD BE
INCREASED.

5. THUS, THE POPULAR CONSENSUS IS THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT
WILL NOT LAST LONG--PROBABLY NOT EVEN A YEAR. THIS IS THE VIEW
NOT ONLY OF THE OPPOSITION AND PRO-OPPOSITION PRESS, BUT ALSO,

WE ARE TOLD, OF SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE JP. THE TASKS FACING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BITTER DETERMINATION OF THE OPPOSITION SUPPORT THIS VIEW. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO DISPUTE IT, BUT WE ARE SKEPTICAL AND WE BELIEVE SEVERAL OTHER FACTORS MUST BE CRANKED IN. THIS GOVERNMENT HAS GREATER PARTY-CONTROLLED STRENGTH IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAN

THE LAST DEMIREL COALITION WHICH MANAGED TO REMAIN IN OFFICE FOR 26 MONTHS, DESPITE POOR PERFORMANCE AND CONSTANT BICKERING. THE FACTORS WHICH PERSUADED DEMIREL, ERBAKAN AND TURKES TO MAKE THE COMPROMISES NECESSARY TO FORM THEIR NEW COALITION HAVE NOT SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED. ALL THREE LEADERS WISH TO BE IN POWER FOR VARIOUS REASONS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS THE PATRONAGE THEY CAN DISPENSE. THE ONLY WAY DEMIREL CAN STAY IN POWER IS WITH THIS COALITION. (THE ALTERNATIVE RPP-JP GRAND COALITION WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY EXCLUDE DEMIREL FROM THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP.) SIMILARLY, TURKES CANNOT LOOK FORWARD TO PARTICIPATION IN ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT. ERBAKAN HAS A POSSIBLE OPTION WITH THE RPP, BUT IN VIEW OF ECEVIT'S RECENT PUBLIC AND REPEATED OFFER OF AN RPP-JP COALITION, ERBAKAN CANNOT BE ENTIRELY CONFIDENT ABOUT THAT OPTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANKARA 05707 02 OF 02 010747Z

6. IN CONCLUSION, IT SEEMS TO US WORTH KEEPING IN MIND THAT, ALTHOUGH THE DEMIREL COALITION WILL PROBABLY BE AN INEFFICIENT GOVERNMENT AND WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE WRACKED BY INTERNAL DISSENT AND OPPOSITION HARASSMENT, IT WILL--BARRING MILITARY INTERVENTION--FALL ONLY WHEN ONE OF THE PARTIES, OR A FACTION OF ONE OF THE PARTIES, DECIDES IT SHOULD FALL. WE HAVE AS YET NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE COALITION SEES OR SOON WILL SEE ITS INTERESTS BEST SERVED BY BRINGING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF DEMIREL'S LEADERSHIP AND DETERMINATION IN FORMING THE COALITION, AND IN VIEW ALSO OF THE LARGE CONCESSIONS ALREADY GIVEN TO THE SMALLER PARTNERS, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT IT WILL BE LARGELY UP TO DEMIREL AND HIS PARTY TO DETERMINE HOW LONG IT IS WORTHWHILE TO KEEP THE COALITION TOGETHER.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, PARTY STRENGTH, TRENDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA05707
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770274-0662
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708112/aaaadrkq.tel
Line Count: 212
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a972b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1439500
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL TRENDS ANALYSIS: DEMIREL COALITION'S SURVIVAL PROSPECTS
TAGS: PINT, TU, (DEMIREL, SULEYMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a972b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009